

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Dale M. Pedretti, 45, of Westby, Wis., was charged with bank embezzlement in a one count information filed in U.S. District Court. The information alleges that while employed at Fortress Bank in Westby, Pedretti embezzled approximately \$351,899.75 from that institution.

If convicted, Pedretti faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison, a \$1 million fine, and a restitution order of \$351,899.75.

The charge against Pedretti is the result of an investigation conducted by the La Crosse Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Grant C. Johnson.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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